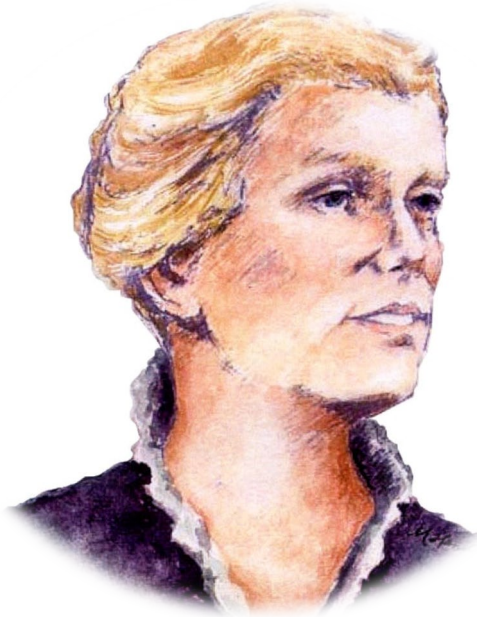


CHY (Revenue) Number 1690
Registered Charity Number (RCN) 20002459 (Ireland)



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy
Southern Province
Annual Trustee Report & Financial Statements
for the period 1st January 2024
to 30th April 2025

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Contents:

Annual Trustee Report	Page
Reference & Administrative Details	3
Introduction	4
Mission	4
Objectives and Activities of the Charity	7
Public Benefit	8
Activities of the Charity:	
A. Congregational Living & the Advancement of Religion	9
B. Healthcare & the Compassionate Care of the Sick & Those in Need	15
C. Alleviation of Poverty, Promotion of Education, Justice & Other Charitable Activities	18
D. Heritage & Upkeep of Listed Buildings	43
E. Positive Impact Investing	47
Financial Review	55
Review of Activities 2024	59
Structure, Governance & Management	61
Policies	63
Statement of Trustee Responsibilities	66
Independent Auditors Report	67

Note - Any reference in this report to “Province” refers to the Charity of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province. Any reference in this report to “Sister” or “Sisters” refers to the members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy Southern Province.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Reference & Administrative Details

Name of Charity:	Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province
Charity Number:	CHY 1690 (Revenue Commissioners) 20002459 (Charities Regulatory Authority)
Address of Principal Office:	Mercy Stewardship Office Bishop Street, Cork City
Trustees:	Sr. Eileen O'Flynn (Provincial Leader) Sr. Nora Anne Lombard Sr. Anna Mai Middleton Sr. Brid Biggane Sr. Julianne Sullivan
Provincial Treasurer:	Sr. Ann Lenihan
Independent Auditors:	Walsh O'Brien Harnett Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 104 Baggot Street Lower Dublin 2
Principal Bankers:	Bank of Ireland 32 South Mall, Cork
Investment Managers:	L&P Investment Services Limited 2/3 Terminus Mills Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 6
Solicitors:	Barry C Galvin & Son Solicitors 91 South Mall, Cork
Financial Advisors:	L&P Trustee Services Limited 3 Terminus Mills Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 6

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Where Our Mission Began

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation founded in Dublin in 1831 by Catherine McAuley. Influenced by her Christian faith, she used her inheritance to set up a centre in Baggot Street, Dublin, from where she and her early companions responded to the needs of people who were disadvantaged.



The founding sisters established schools and hospitals and cared in whatever way possible for the needs of the people who were poorest in society. In the years that followed the Sisters of Mercy established communities in Ireland and overseas, setting up schools that still exist in the Southern Province as well as establishing healthcare institutions and working in state-run ones.

Our Mission Today

In recent decades, and as the State provision in the areas of education and healthcare continue to improve, the work of sisters became more varied.

Motivated by the Christian vision of a world of equality, justice, peace and care of the earth, the Charity has consistently worked for justice and responded to unmet needs, to work for justice and to advocate for the voiceless. Sisters are committed to prayer while also being involved in pastoral care, eco-justice, addressing addiction, the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, spirituality and various facets of the healing and education ministry. However, as the age profile of the sisters has increased, the need to care for older sisters has become a necessity for the Charity while also resourcing others in keeping with the charism of Mercy.

“The mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is to bear witness to the compassionate and merciful love of God. Our administration of temporal goods must express the Gospel call to justice, charity and almsgiving... We use these goods for our common life, for the various apostolates of mercy and for the needs of the Church, especially the poor and deprived.” Constitutions 104 (1985)



How We Organise Ourselves Today

In 1994, the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland) was formed by the union of twenty-seven autonomous Mercy Congregations, formerly of Ireland and South Africa. The purpose of this union was to ensure greater effectiveness in the mission of Mercy.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

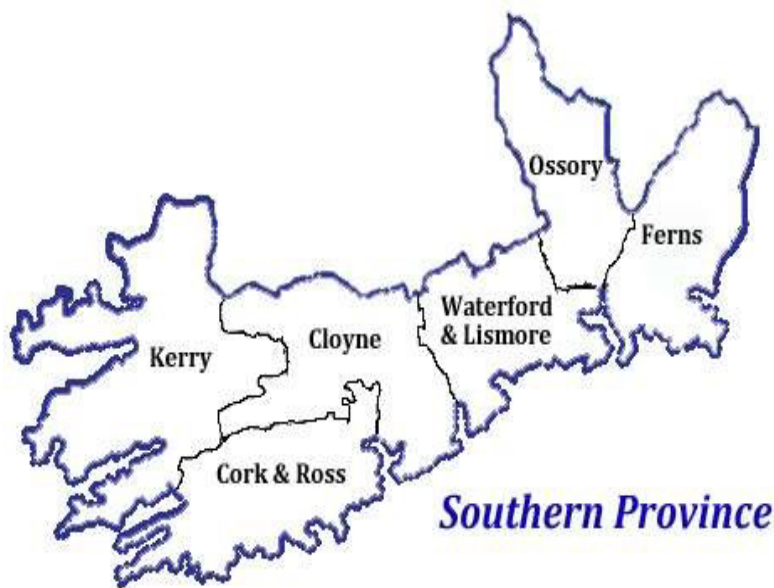
For administrative purposes the Congregation structurally was comprised of six Provinces (canonical and civil entities) – four in Ireland (Northern, Southern, Western and South Central) one in Kenya and one in South Africa. There is a smaller group (a Region) of the Congregation in the United States. These structures are currently under review following the 2018 Congregational Chapter.

Southern Province



The Southern Province comprises six former independent congregations located in the Catholic Dioceses of Cloyne, Cork & Ross, Ferns, Kerry, Ossory and Waterford & Lismore. The geographical area comprises counties Carlow, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. In addition, the province has a mission area in Peru.

Geographical Location



Restructuring

As noted in the 2023 Report, this Charity is one of five 'Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy' civil charities in the Republic of Ireland and the Trustees have been working with the wider Congregation on a restructuring process. A decision has been taken to restructure the five civil charities in the Republic of Ireland into one charity. This followed an extensive period of reflection and discussion in relation to:

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

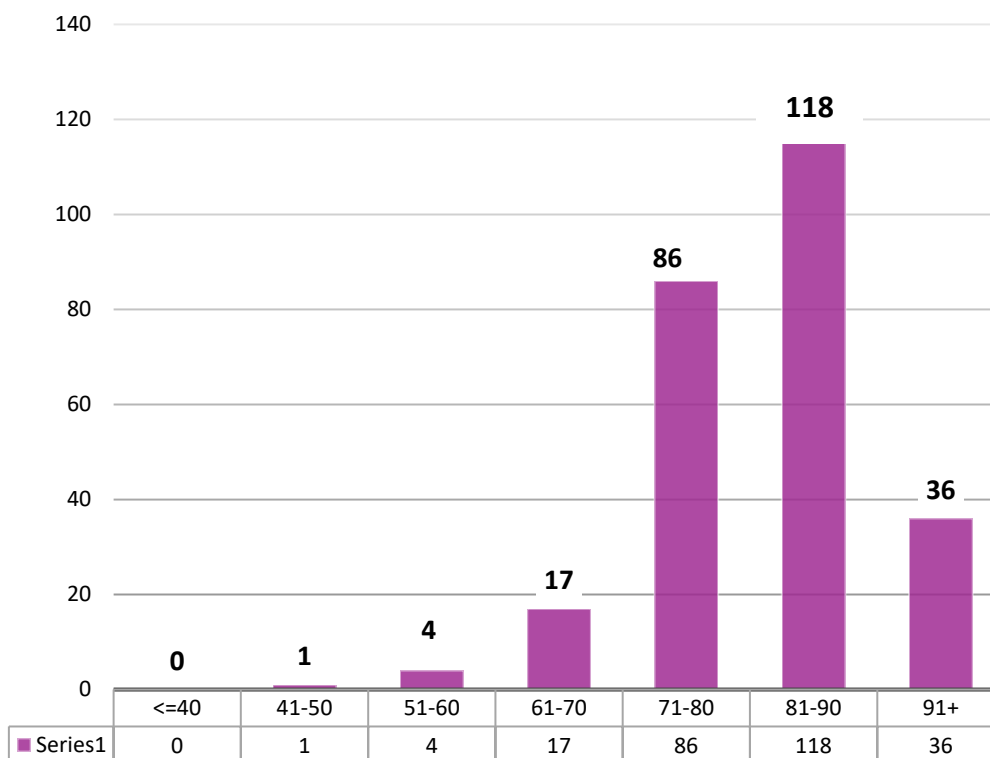
- The role and obligations of Charity Trustees
- The most effective and efficient use of the time and resources of the Republic of Ireland Provinces and the Congregation
- The best way of preserving the mission and ethos of the Provinces and Congregation into the future

The formal date of the restructuring was 30th April 2025:

- On this date, this Charity, and the three other Republic of Ireland Provincial charities, merged with the central charity, The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, RCN 20023843.
- On this date, all this Charity's assets, liabilities, activities and undertakings were merged with the central charity.
- Therefore, this is the final set of financial statements for this Charity.
- The Trustees will continue to work with both the Charities Regulator and the Revenue Commissioners on the formal wind-up of the Charity.

Membership at 30 April 2025 Total Sisters 262

Age Profile



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Objects of the Charity

The main objects of the Charity are:

- ✚ the advancement of religion
- ✚ the alleviation of poverty
- ✚ the support of those in need spiritually as well as materially

The charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried out in the name of the province and to care for the members of the province throughout their lives.

We do this through the activities and ministries of the Charity in the following areas



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

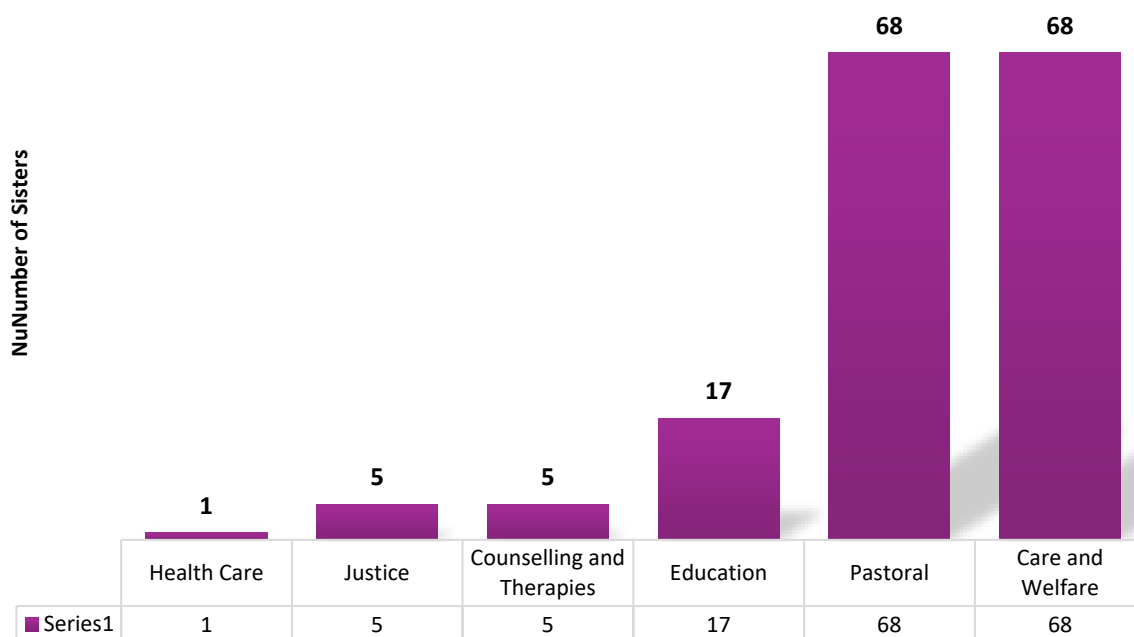
Public Benefit

Public Benefit is achieved in a variety of ways, as described throughout this report, and is delivered through religious activities, impact investments, overseas aid, ecological awareness and a variety of services provided to families, refugees, older people, children, and to people experiencing hunger and poverty.

Through grant aids/donations the charity supports other charities to alleviate poverty and improve social conditions.

The beneficiaries are people of the Republic of Ireland and of other parts of the world through our response to needs in developing countries.

Ministries 2024/5



The chart shows the areas in which active members are involved, some of them in more than one area. Most of these are part time roles. There are six sisters involved in internal administration: one is treasurer and five (trustees) exercise leadership responsibility within the province. Two sisters are members of the Congregational Leadership Team.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

All members of the Charity are committed to the ministry of prayer, both personal and communal.

Seven sisters work in Peru, six Peruvian and one Irish. One member lives and ministers in Lima and six members live and minister in Trujillo.

Activities of the Charity

A. Congregational Living and the Advancement of Religion

The advancement of religion, the nurturing of faith and the spiritual dimension of life are of prime importance to the sisters in the province and underpin all aspects of the life and work of the Charity. The sisters are committed to personal prayer and to the form of communal prayer suited to their local circumstances.

Some groups are closely linked to their local parishes and all, who are able, participate in reflective processes provided by the Congregation and other faith-based communities.

Sisters in receipt of salaries, stipends or pensions donate them to the Charity and therefore have no independent means of support. They have devoted all their lives and their earnings to the furtherance of the Charity's objectives. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age.

The Trustees are mindful of the age profile of the members of the province and the impact of this on the work of the Charity, property requirements and financial implications. Accommodation is kept under review to ensure a continuum of care as appropriate to each sister's needs.

The following are a few examples of ministries undertaken by the Charity in 2024 and to 30th April 2025.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Faith Development/Parish and Prayer Ministry

Apart from their own prayer life, many sisters, even in retirement, actively contribute to the promotion of spirituality in various ways. Some of their ministries are:

- ✚ Adult Faith Development
- ✚ Sacramental Preparation
- ✚ Funeral Ministry
- ✚ Spiritual Accompaniment
- ✚ Retreat Work
- ✚ Parish Liturgy
- ✚ Parish Pastoral Council Member
- ✚ Prison Ministry
- ✚ Music Ministry
- ✚ Prayer Groups



Resting in the Arms of God with Deirdre Ní Chinnéide

“On February 20th and 21st '25 many of us were fortunate enough to meet in Dungarvan and Ballincollig and to hear Deirdre Ní Chinnéide share from her well of wisdom and inspiration. It was a day where we journeyed together through silence, song, art and poetry. Deirdre’s input was a blend of Celtic and Christian spirituality inspired by her life in Inis Mór, her place of inspiration. We were captivated as Deirdre involved us in songs which “soothe and calm the soul” e.g. ‘Oscail Mo Chroí’. In the stillness Deirdre led us and encouraged us to dip deeper in the well of our own place of inspiration. Her message too certainly supports us in the fear and anxiety that people are feeling at the moment in the midst of war, turmoil, unrest and change. She emphasised the value of sitting with something, letting it happen, trusting and taking the risk. Deirdre’s talent as singer, composer, psychotherapist, spiritual director, workshop facilitator was well appreciated and allowed us a quiet, reflective resting place in the arms of God”.



(Bríd O’ Farrell and Bridget O’Keeffe RSM)

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Encountering Mercy and Circles of Mercy

“On May 11th twenty of us (vowed and non-vowed) women in Mercy spent a day in Baggot Street. For some members of the Circles of Mercy and Encountering Mercy groups this was their first ever visit. We were blessed to have Anne Reid lead us in a day on our life’s journey to God accompanied by Catherine.”



Anne’s passion for Mercy is infectious. The morning was spent building up a profile of Catherine. In the absence of photographs from early 19th century Dublin we are lucky to have a detailed description of her physical appearance from one of her contemporaries - Clare Augustine Moore. Anne had met great - grandnieces of Catherine and their resemblance to her as depicted in the bronze bust sculpted by John Burke was truly amazing.

Reflection time was spent with the question:

What is it about Catherine that draws you to follow her?

We met Catherine in a guided meditation and we gleaned aspects of her personality from her letters. Then, we moved to the room in which Catherine died and listened to Anne as she recounted how the foundress spent her last days and hours. The actual floor on which she walked is as it was when the house was built and amazingly did not suffer the fate of other timbers in the house which were destroyed by dry rot. Being in that room was very special and a powerful silence fell on us while we sat there. Each one had her own thoughts as she sat there praying, reflecting and remembering all the Sisters of Mercy who are no longer with us.

All were moved by the ritual at Catherine’s grave. Anne Reid spoke again of Catherine and of the forty-nine sisters who are buried in the grounds. A beautiful bouquet was laid on Catherine’s grave by Siobhan Kenny and then our day ended when we moved into the Chapel to sing the Suscipe. We left for home feeling inspired by Anne and reformed in Mercy”.

“Thank you so much for a wonderful day. It was great to see Baggot St and to meet so many from other Circles”.
Susan Golden (Mallow)

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



A Pilgrimage

“A group comprised of members of Encountering Mercy and Circles of Mercy spent a day on Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey on Sat 14th September ‘25. By a blessed coincidence this happened to be the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, and the Abbey was thronged with pilgrims who were attending the various prayer sessions during the Annual Novena which happened to be going on that week. We made our way to the Abbey Church at 10am to secure a seat for the 10.30 Mass which was the highlight of our day. Throughout the day pilgrims venerated the relic of the True Cross. Later, we were treated to a most interesting tour of the Abbey buildings by our guide for the day - Teresa Mason. We saw the restored church and dormitories, and the parts still in ruins - the infirmary, refectory and calefactory. Teresa pointed out some of the unique architectural features often high up in the perimeter of the building. The original bells in the Abbey were destroyed in Cromwellian times. Teresa introduced us to Michael and Gabriel the magnificent bronze bells hanging in the Bell Tower which had been found in a family grave in a local cemetery.

Before we set out for home, we all had enjoyed a delicious lunch, visited the shop and prayed the Way of the Cross at the magnificent outdoor Stations. Our thanks to Mary O’Sullivan, who lives in Bansha Co. Tipperary, for her impeccable attention to detail in organising a most memorable day for us.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Michelle Cooke from Mitchelstown ringing what is reputed to be the oldest church bell in Ireland in Holy Cross Abbey.

“The wonderful retreat day for our encounter group at Holy Cross Abbey was an experience that touched me deeply, blending the spiritual, the historic, the holy, the human and the joyful in a way that left a lasting impression”

(A Group Member)



In Trujillo Peru a Catherine McAuley group meets regularly in the House of Spirituality to reflect on the life and mission of Catherine and on how her vision inspires their work today.

Kilkenny Bereavement Support, Villa Maria, Kilkenny

“Kilkenny Bereavement Support was founded in 1989 by Sr. Pius Meenan. As the then Director of Nursing in St. Luke’s Hospital, Sr. Pius saw first-hand the complete lack of follow-up services when families left the hospital after a bereavement. On her frequent visits to the mortuary to pray with and comfort the grieving families, it became more and more obvious to her that upon leaving St. Luke’s Hospital there was no further support available to bereaved people outside the confines of the hospital as they struggled to cope with the death of a loved one. With the support of others with similar experiences Kilkenny Bereavement Support was set up.

It provides a free confidential listening service for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one recently or in the past. This service is provided by a team of more than 20 volunteers trained in the art of active listening, empathy and the capacity to hear the bereaved person’s story without judgment, criticism or offering advice.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

The service is available in a one-to-one setting in Villa Maria to individuals of all ages, including children. There is no set number of sessions which the bereaved may avail of. This decision is guided by the needs of the individual experiencing grief and loss.

There continues to be a great need for this bereavement service particularly for those who experienced the death of a loved one during Covid. The required restrictions had a profound impact on many grieving people's lives. Kilkenny Bereavement Support continues to encourage and sponsor ongoing education for its volunteers and hosts worthwhile workshops for the public.

No one can ever replace the person who has died, but with the support of someone who can listen with empathy, understanding and kindness, most families can adjust to the loss and find new ways to move forward together".

(Rose O'Brien and Kate Morris RSM - Volunteers)



Bene Merenti Award

Bishop William Crean presented the Bene Merenti medal to Sr. Perpetua O'Donoghue at a celebration of the Eucharist in St. Mary's Church, Buttevant last September. The medal was in recognition of her faithfulness and commitment to her ministry in the Mercy Centre, Buttevant over the past thirty-five years. Perpetua was joined by family, Sisters of Mercy and the people of Buttevant and the surrounding area. It was a joyous occasion and one of great celebration.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Pastoral Ministry in Peru



The sisters in Peru are very involved in social action both in parishes and in the schools. Some of their ministry is also in pastoral centres where they prepare children for the Sacraments of Initiation and for participation in liturgies.

In the schools, support has included the distributing of food parcels and organising school supplies.

2024 presented many new challenges. In one school, with over 1,000 students, there were increasing incidents of self-harm and drug taking among the students. A sister, together with a pastoral team, supported these students and organised workshops for parents.



One sister oversees the running of 25 Care Centres in which 230 children are provided with food and help with homework while their parents are at work. The care mothers support the children in their own homes, and a sister organises training for them each year. Without this support the children would have no education as their parents, of necessity, must go out to work.



A sister facilitates retreats, as a member of a Retreat Team, and accompanies individuals and groups on their faith journey. She works with young people using the process of synodality. All sisters visit the sick in their homes and in hospital.

B. Healthcare and the Compassionate Care of the Sick and Those in Need

Catherine McAuley generated in her sisters a deep concern and compassionate care for the sick and dying. Today, over 180 years later, wellbeing activities, healthcare, care of the dying and the bereaved still engage many of the members of the Charity. They are involved in this work in community care and within the community houses.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

in 2024 the Charity donated €10,000 to the Irish Cancer Society for its transport services. This is a free service and is volunteer led.



The Irish Cancer Society recruits and trains volunteers who can bring patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments in its partner hospitals (9 such hospitals in the province).



In 2024 the Transport Service supported over 2,500 people to travel to 26,500 appointments.

The Charity also donated €5,000 to the HOPE Foundation in India for the HOPE hospital which provides healthcare services for the street and slum community in Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal. These people would otherwise be deprived of necessary hospital-based care.

“My heartfelt thanks on behalf of HOPE”

M. Forrest (Founding President)

Care of Older Members

The Charity also has a duty to care for its older and frail members who are now themselves in need of care. The Trustees continue to ensure that these sisters, who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the furtherance of the Charity’s objectives without any personal remuneration, are cared for in their old age.

The Trustees are committed to :

- Ensuring sisters receive the appropriate level of care they require.
- Maintaining and reviewing the suitability of community houses for sisters.
- Prudent management of the finances of the Charity in this area.

With the increasing age profile - 92% of our members were over 70 at the end of April - needs have become more acute. It has meant adapting existing houses to become assisted living houses and, in some cases, new buildings have been required.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Assisted living is offered in: Killarney, Callan, Clonakilty, Charleville, Kinsale, Mallow, Cork City, Dungarvan, Carrick-on-Suir, Waterford and Wexford. It has also meant frequently securing residential care in nursing homes for members.

Facilities Management Companies are employed in our assisted living houses to oversee care, catering, cleaning and maintenance. Cluster leaders meet weekly with the managers. Individual members of the Trustees attend when feasible and the Trustees meet the company management a couple of times a year for general oversight of the services. During the period covered by this report the Charity engaged in follow - up with the companies following the 2023 review carried out by Springfort Consultancy.

Sisters, who are able, help in supportive and pastoral roles in these communities. This supplements on a spiritual and pastoral level the care provided by the management companies and third party contractors.



Mercy Hearts

Sustaining the Mercy tradition of compassionate and exemplar end of life care, the End-of-Life Care Co-Ordinator at Mercy University Hospital introduced “Mercy Hearts”. *“We are seeking the help of the sisters in crafting these little “Mercy Hearts” as we feel it is not something we want outsourced and manufactured but something that is crafted with tender care and attention and coming right from the heart of Mercy”.*

Siobhán Kenny, Values and Culture Lead, MUH

These small “cushion like” hearts are offered to bereaved families with another remaining with their deceased family member, in the hope it will allow them to feel more connected to their relative who has died.

The hearts are designed to fit into the palm of a hand or a child’s pocket and to be available in a variety of colours. Bereaved family members will be invited to choose a colour that resonates with them and keep the heart as a small but powerful symbol of the continuing bond between them and their loved one.

Special thanks to Margaret Kiely and Judy Dineen RSM for engaging with this meaningful project.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



“Families like to pick out their own hearts because they find some meaning/connection in a colour or pattern”. S.K. Palliative Care Nurse

C. Alleviation of Poverty, Promotion of Education, Justice and other Charitable Activities in Collaboration with and Support of other Groups

“Our foundress, Catherine McAuley, generated in her sisters a deep concern for those at risk in society – this concern engages us in Christian Education. It urges us to be with, and for, the poor and distressed, working for social justice and well-being, seeking to bring rich and poor together in mutual love and service” *Mercy Constitutions 43 (1985)*

In the period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025 members of the Charity engaged in the Charity’s commitment to the relief of poverty, promotion of education, justice and other charitable activities through ministries related to the following:

1. Promotion of education
2. Justice, peace and reconciliation
3. Overseas development and support
4. Pastoral and social care and development

1. Promotion of Education

Provision of education and access to education has always been central to the work of the Charity. From the late 19th century onwards, the Mercy Sisters established second-level schools, including boarding schools, in most provincial towns thereby enabling children from rural Ireland to receive an education.

Discernment regarding the rationalisation of religious run schools began in the 1970’s and gained momentum in the 1980’s and 1990’s. In recent years there have been major developments in the landscape of the Charity’s involvement in schools, and this is

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

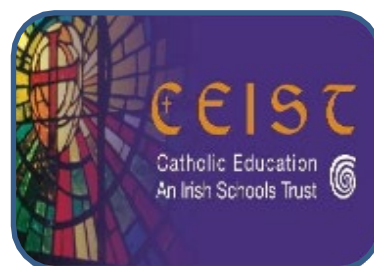
For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

reflected in the gradual transfer of responsibility for the future of Catholic education in Mercy Schools to other trusteeships.

(i) Voluntary and Secondary School Trusteeship:

Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust (CEIST)

In 2007 CEIST, which is now an independent entity, was set up to act as Trustees for Secondary Schools for the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland and for four other Religious Congregations. CEIST schools have two pillars which support and guide the way they work - schools are exemplary places of learning where every student experiences excellence in teaching and learning and schools are nurturing places of spiritual life and Catholic faith.



The EDUCENA foundation works with the CEIST Trust to enable the resourcing of the trusteeship of their schools and managing and optimizing the financial resources that will be needed in the future. All schools of the Southern Province have now been transferred from the Sisters of Mercy to EDUCENA.



Ard Scoil na nDéise Dungarvan – the final school to be transferred

(ii) Community Schools

In 2018 the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and the Presentation Sisters engaged CEIST to carry out the Trustee function in Community Schools and Designated

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Community Colleges under an Agency Agreement. This legal Agency Agreement commits CEIST to carrying out the 'Active Trusteeship' of the Mercy and Presentation Sisters in schools where they are co-Trustees.

The Charity is Joint Trustee of five Community Schools and one Community College - Kinsale, Béara, Blackwater (Lismore), Skibbereen, Passage West Community Schools



and Coláiste Dún Iascaigh Community College, Cahir. In 2024 the Charity contributed €6,823.69 towards the salary of the person appointed by CEIST as the Community Schools and Colleges Co-ordinator.

Scoil Phobail Bhéara

(iii) Eliza Dennehy Fund

The fund was set up in 1963 when the Sisters of Mercy, Macroom were left \$125,000 by Mary Cronin for, as the will quotes, "the establishment of a fund to be known as the Mary Eliza Dennehy Memorial Fund. Mary Eliza Dennehy was the grandmother of the donor. This Memorial Fund is used for charitable and educational purposes.

Over the years the money was invested by the sisters. Since the Convent of Mercy, Macroom closed this fund is administered by the Charity. Between 1st January 2024 and 30th April 2025 €89,500.00 was disbursed from the fund.

*"Your generous funding is greatly appreciated".
A Student*

"You will never know the difference this funding made.....in truth we are struggling". Parent of a Student

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

(iv) Primary Schools

The trusteeship of the enterprise of education has been transferred to the relevant Dioceses and the process of transferring the properties continues.

(v) Welcome Immigrant Centre Ltd T/A Welcome English

“Welcome English is committed to meeting the English Language needs of refugees, those seeking asylum and unemployed immigrants in Cork and its surrounds”.

(Mission Statement)

Welcome English Centre in Cork City was set up by the province in the year 2000 to respond to the growing numbers of asylum seekers and those with refugee status and their need to learn English. It was set up and coordinated by one of the sisters when she retired from teaching at post primary level. Priority on the courses is given to asylum seekers.



Welcome Immigrant Centre CLG is a charity and is largely reliant on donations for funding the operating costs and is principally staffed by a team of volunteers.

The principal donors are the Sisters of Mercy who contributed €50,000 in 2024 and have committed a similar amount for 2025. In addition to this funding, the congregation also provides the premises where the services operate, together with the services of other support staff.

Students come from many countries (see table below).

Number of Students and Countries of Origin

COUNTRY	NO OF STUDENTS	COUNTRY	NO OF STUDENTS
Afghanistan	35	Malaysia	2
Bangladesh	3	Moldova	2
Boliva	1	Morocco	1
Brazil	3	Nepal	2
China	6	Niger	1
Colombia	1	Palestine	2
DRC Congo	4	Poland	3

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Egypt	2	Portugal	2
El Salvador	1	Romania	1
Eriteria	2	Russia	2
Georgia	2	Sudan	3
Guatemala	2	Syria	5
Iran	1	Turkey	5
Iraq	1	Ukraine	48
India	2	Venezuela	1
Kurdistan	2	Vietnam	1
Lithuania	1		
Total Number of Students = 150 Asylum Seekers 14 Refugees 18 Temporary Protection 48 Family Reunification 49 Migrant/Low waged 11 Immigrant 10			

Lifelong Learning Event

"In April 2024 Welcome English held its Lifelong Learning event as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival, Cork City. The event was called Learn about Other Cultures. Students from Brazil, Ukraine, Egypt, Russia, Afghanistan and China took part on the day. Each group displayed items from their home countries as well as providing national dishes. We had a classroom demonstration of how to make Chinese dumplings and a Ukrainian tea tasting ceremony courtesy of Olexsander one of our students.

Apart from our tutors and students visiting the event, we also had 40 other visitors. This was a great response. They met with our students and sampled the food. During the week tutors and students were encouraged to visit events in other parts of the city. They attended woodwork demonstrations in St. Johns College where each student made their own breadboard. They also participated in designing a mural for display in Cork College



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

of Commerce and visited Nano Nagle Centre, St. Finbarr's Cathedral and took part in a walking tour of the city". (Angela Murphy – Welcome English Centre Manager)

AONTAS STAR AWARD

The AONTAS STAR Awards is part of the annual AONTAS (the National Adult Learning Organisation) Adult Learning Festival. The Awards raise awareness of the work of education providers which is making a real difference to people's lives.

In March 2025 Welcome English, facing stiff competition, succeeded in winning the Aontas Star Award for Social Inclusion and their outstanding contribution to adult learning.



The “global kitchen” in Welcome English Centre offers a warm inviting space between classes for all to sit and chat and share their experiences, hopes and dreams. Through the Family Reunification process, Welcome English has facilitated inter-generational learning as former students’ children avail of lifelong learning opportunities.

2. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

The Charity Governing Document urges sisters “*to be with and for the poor and distressed, working for social justice and wellbeing, seeking to bring rich and poor together in mutual love and service*” Constitutions 43 (1985).

The Charity is committed to raising awareness of the interdependence and interconnectedness of all of life. It aims to promote right relationships with all people and with all of life. Over the years, members of the province have endeavoured to alleviate suffering in all its forms. These members worked in schools, workhouses, orphanages and hospitals in co-operation with the Church and State. The works of the sisters today for justice, peace and reconciliation include:

- Mercy International Association
- Care of Creation/Ecology
- Solidarity with and Support for Former Residents of Mercy Managed Institutions.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

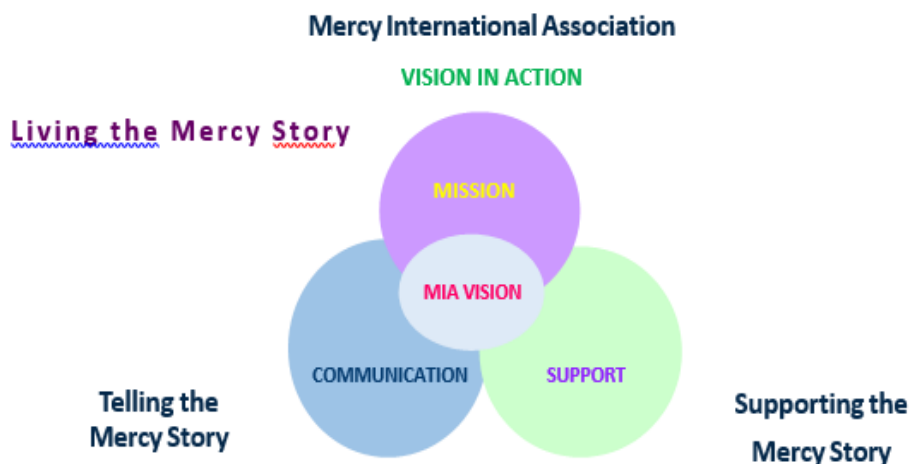
Annual Trustee Report For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

(i) Mercy International Association

Mercy International Association (MIA) is an association of the leaders of Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Unions throughout the world. The Congregations are in Ireland, England, America, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland and the Philippines.



The leaders work together to share some aspects of the common work of the Congregation. Each Mercy group contributes financially. MIA strives to support, stimulate and inspire all who desire to ensure a new, vital, and creative way for the Mercy charism and the spirit of Catherine McAuley to be present in the world long into the future. It has a significant role as a catalyst in creating networks and opportunities for connection and enabling the sharing of resources. One member of the Charity is CEO of Mercy International Centre, Baggot St., Dublin and another is the Director of Heritage and Spirituality.



Almost 200 years after the opening of the first House of Mercy on Baggot Street (now Mercy International Centre) the doors are still open and thousands of vowed sisters, associates, and partners in mission have responded and continue to respond to the call of Mercy throughout the world. In many situations, the mission of Mercy is

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

today being led by lay people, individuals, and groups who look to Catherine's legacy for inspiration.

July 23rd 2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the official opening of the Centre.

On Saturday, May 18th '24, the official launch of '*Catherine McAuley and the Mission of Mercy*' heritage exhibition took place at Mercy International Centre in Dublin.

This one-of-a-kind exhibition delves into the material history of the house, the social context in which Catherine McAuley and her early companions lived, and the daily routines and religious practices of the founding Sisters of Mercy. It offers a fascinating library of heritage audio recordings, an interactive digital archive, and a unique collection of stories, photos, and artefacts from the first House of Mercy.



For the exhibition MIA received two valuable artefacts from the Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co. Cork on a temporary loan of five years. One was a framed picture of the Crucifixion, presented by Catherine McAuley to Mother Mary Angela Dunne, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Charleville in 1836. The second was a traditional religious habit of the Sisters of Mercy worn up to Vatican 2.

Sr. Bernadette Maria Knopek, the curator of the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre said: *"The Provincial Heritage Centre in Charleville is delighted to offer Mercy International Association's new exhibition space this valuable artefact on temporary loan. It is important to celebrate our shared heritage and tell the stories of the inspirational women who came before us."*

(ii) Care of Creation/Ecology

Sisters also work in a variety of ways in caring for the earth. These include:

- awareness raising on issues such as climate change and its effects.
- justice issues particularly in relation to the poorest peoples of the globe.
- engaging in advocacy work through signing petitions to curb climate change and

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

other issues that adversely affect the health of the planet and its various life-forms.

In keeping with the core aim of the Charity - the Advancement of Religion - there is a strong emphasis on facilitating province members and others in recognising the moral and spiritual dimensions of the work of caring for creation and being conscious of the need for climate justice. Pope Francis invites us to find the spark of divinity within all creation to fully realize our relationship with our earthly home. He describes this relationship as an “interdependent shared community”.



100 Million Trees Project

The 100 Million Trees Project is a new national initiative developed by brothers, Richard and David Mulcahy, which aims to see the planting of 100 million native Irish trees across the island of Ireland throughout the next decade, as a community-driven initiative to reverse the immense environmental damage caused by the reduction of forests worldwide and the loss of huge areas of biodiversity.

The project’s ambitious aim will be achieved through densely planting between 500 and 2,500 native Irish trees at a time across small areas of land. By planting excess trees together these grow 10 times faster, 30 times denser, create an area 100 times more biodiverse and most importantly create a very rapid carbon sink. These areas are known as mini forests.



Carrick on Suir

The community in Greenhill, Carrick-on-Suir decided to be part of this project and will have a ‘mini forest’ of 25,000 trees planted in a small corner of land surrounding the Convent. They are delighted to be playing their part to contribute to biodiversity & help reduce global warming.

In Peru ecology and care of the earth is high on the agenda of our sisters. One sister has a team who voluntarily sets plants in the local areas. She also provides training on the care of the earth, the use of its resources and organises different scientific projects on ecology. She uses a method of growing plants that saves water and maintains humidity and nitrogen.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Sisters who are teaching work with the students to raise awareness and engage in practical projects to care for the earth.



In 2024 a sister, Aurea, received recognition for her ongoing work since 2016 caring for Our Common Home. Aurea has been consistent in presenting school environmental projects at various scientific fairs. In 2024 she was chosen to represent her school, José Carlos Mariátegui, at the 8th



International Environmental Fair. Together with two students they presented their project on the production and use of natural fertilisers - via zoom in Mexico and in person in Argentina. They were awarded with accreditations and diplomas.

She also works to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation, composting and promotes the recognition of medicinal plants together with planting and caring for them.

The residents in Sal y Luz addiction treatment centre are also very involved in learning about the care of creation and work in their garden – planting and caring for the various plants.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

(iii) AMRI (Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland)



Future with Hope.
Scoping Inquiry.

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) represents and promotes active collaboration between Religious Congregations, Societies of Apostolic Life and Lay Missionary Groups. It supports members across a number of areas of joint collaboration and continues to implement their strategic plan – A

In 2024 one of its main challenges was the

AMRI is funded by the contributions of the member organisations and overall responsibility rests with an executive council which is elected by the members. As a member organisation the Charity contributed a subscription of €20,235 to AMRI in 2024.

(iv) Prison Ministry



From the earliest days of the Congregation, sisters have been involved in prison work. Today, in Peru, a sister co-ordinates the work of volunteer solicitors and psychologists who provide free legal aid and psychological services in a Women's Prison. There are over 500 women in the prison and medical campaigns are also organised. The women are taught various crafts and their products are sold to help provide for their families.

3. Overseas Development and Support

“Belonging to the universal church, missionary in her very nature, we seek to incarnate the mercy of God, according to the limits of our resources, in missionary countries.”

(Mercy Constitutions, Par 45)

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



Peru:

As already outlined in the report seven sisters work in Peru - they minister in schools, care centres, the women's prison, parishes and in an addiction centre.

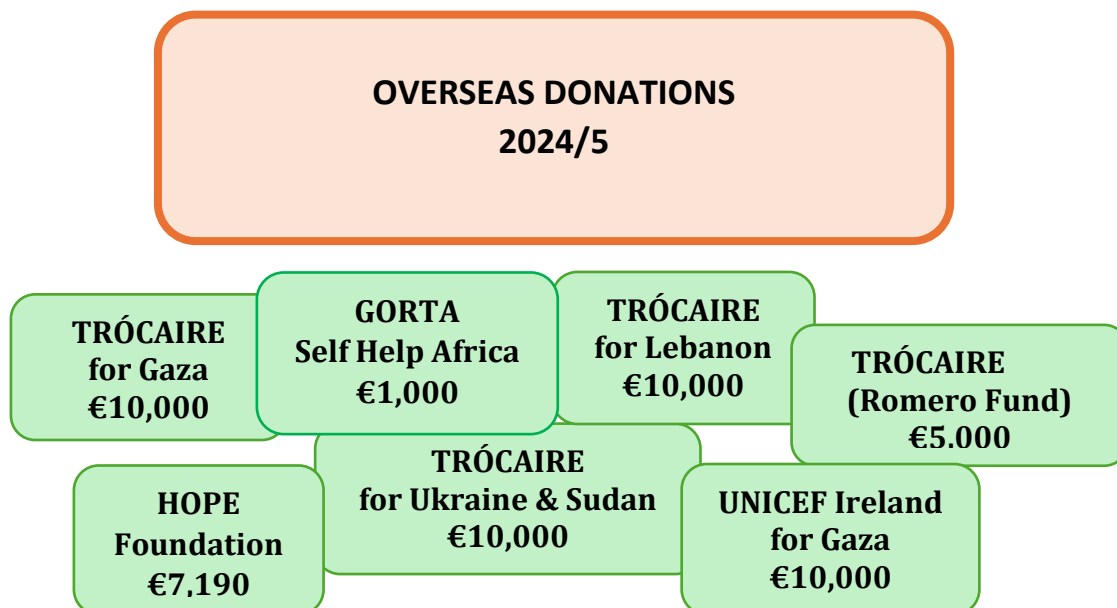
Resources for a number of their projects come from the Congregational Solidarity Fund, the Southern Province and from The Ministry of the Good Shepherd, Boca Raton Florida, as well as donations from individual sisters and their families.

India: In 2024 €7,190.00 was donated to the Hope Foundation.

In addition to the help and support provided by the Trustees communities in the province continue to support this and other missions.

Chile: One sister works as a member of a parish team in Chile.

Other Mission Areas – The province also provides ongoing human and financial support in the cause of justice and for the development and enrichment of people's lives in other regions of the world. This support is usually given through donations for works/projects which have given life and hope to many people.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

“Thank you so much for your kind and generous support for the people in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan who are all experiencing such dire living conditions due to conflict” Caoimhe de Barra. CEO Trócaire

“Your incredible generosity will support us in our work in Gaza.... Provide essentials such as medical supplies, blankets, hygiene kits and warm clothes.....deliver vital psychological aid to children in Gaza” Caoimhe de Barra, CEO Trócaire

During the summer of 2024 Trócaire in Cork received ten rolls of beautifully woven and dyed materials from one of their partner organisations in Sierra Leone, called **WESOFOD**, which stands for the Welfare Society of the Disabled. This partner does some powerful work supporting people with disabilities to lead independent lives. They run workshops in life-skills and income generating activities. They recently trained over 100 persons living with and affected by disabilities and provided them with start-up kits to establish small scale enterprises in their communities. They looked for volunteers who could make their very own craft items with this handmade African cloth which in turn, they could promote and sell from the Trócaire Centre in Cook Street, Cork. Our thanks to the sisters in Military Road, Waterford, St. Maries of the Isle, Cork and in Greenhill, Carrick-on-Suir who took on the challenge and used their skills to produce some lovely crafts.

Cecilia, Mary, Susan and Eileen.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

"Thank you. Please pass on our sincere gratitude to the communities for their support of Trócaire's work".

Janet Twomey, Trócaire Cork



Volunteering With Trócaire

"I have been a volunteer with Trócaire since 2016. I have visited schools in Cork City and County and given talks at Masses in various churches in the diocese of Cloyne. Work as a volunteer involves raising awareness of the fact that in a world of plenty, one in nine people go to bed hungry ever night. It's a great opportunity to remind students and congregations how climate change, drought, famine, natural disasters and human rights abuses impact the lives of the poorest people on the planet.

When Irish people hear how Trócaire responds to these disasters they donate very generously to the many appeals. As a volunteer, one has a great opportunity to let people know how far a euro stretches when it is donated to a project in countries like Somalia or Gaza.

Trócaire deliver a very comprehensive training programme and one feels confident for the challenge of talking to different audiences. It's rewarding too to meet so many like-minded people who each in their own way want to alleviate human suffering and environmental degradation.

On a personal level, work as a Trócaire volunteer is both fulfilling and rewarding. I have learned so much about global injustices and I feel I can influence others to share their resources with our poor brothers and sisters who would otherwise be forgotten".

(Bríd Biggane RSM)

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Property:



In response to the appeals for accommodation for Ukrainians fleeing the war in their homeland the Charity donated a 6 bed roomed house in Clogheen, Co. Tipperary which is currently occupied by a Ukrainian family.

4. Pastoral and Social Care and Development

(i) Charleville Sheltered Housing/Retirement Village

"In 1987 the Sisters of Mercy donated the original site to the then newly found Company, Charleville Care Project C.L.G, (Charleville Sheltered Housing Services). With Dept of Environment grant of 80% and local fundraising the first 14 houses and Group House were developed and officially opened by the then President, Mary Robinson, April 1991. The HSE works closely with our services as people can continue to live out their ageing years within supported services and yet enjoy the freedom of their own house. This option is much more beneficial to people and to the State rather than premature entry to Nursing Home Care. The service is open to all income categories and residents retain their statutory benefits.

The company now has 40 housing units within the grounds that we were so fortunate to purchase from the Sisters of Mercy.

The most recently opened 9 housing units are considered "Independent Living" which means residents do their own cooking. The responsibility for these houses is within the Company for allocation, maintenance, care taking, waste management, security and bleeper service. The new grant aid for these units was greater than earlier years but the Council have a significant linkage with allocation of some of these units.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

The Company has a Tenancy Agreement which is legally signed by residents so that the terms are clear and just. The Company directors take a very proactive role in the Governance of the Company. Their Commitment and expertise are integral to the success of the services.

In September 2024 the company directors were very happy to assist the local Sisters of Mercy when alas, Charleville Convent closed its doors after 188 years of phenomenal services to the town of Charleville and environs. Some of the sisters relocated to supported housing services where they appreciate security and support across the 24 hours.

It is abundantly evident that without the support of the Sisters of Mercy this housing service which is in very high demand could not have provided the expanse of services central to the town.

Charleville Community Care and Garden Services CLG



The Garden Services commenced in the Mercy Bungalow in 1994 as an opportunity for rehabilitation support to the outreach Mental Health Services which operated from there under the guidance of a Consultant Psychiatrist.

Charleville Sheltered Housing Services was in position to accommodate the new Garden Company in portion of the field it purchased from the Sisters of Mercy for the new Central

Care Unit. Staffing in Charleville Community Garden Services consists of a Garden Manager and 11 part-time operatives.

A very vibrant shop on Main Street known as The Flower Pot is fully operational Monday to Saturdays. It is stocked from the tunnels and managed by 2 staff from the main Garden Centre".

Celestine Farrissey RSM



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

(ii) Kanturk Mercy House:



A sister administers Kanturk Mercy House. The premises are owned by the Sisters of Mercy. The centre provides daily meals, social activities, outings and advice. It seeks to alleviate rural isolation and is a venue for delivery of health care and social activities. In 2024 an average of 50 dinners per day were cooked at the centre and delivered to those in need in the surrounding areas.

(iii) Buttevant Mercy Centre:



In the 1980's the sisters in Buttevant purchased two houses for ministry. Presently the centre is rented to the HSE by the Sisters of Mercy. It is managed by a sister and is open five days a week. Meals continue to be delivered and social activities take place, particularly for the elderly. The centre also provides facilities for a Parent/Toddler Group. The Community Nurse also avails of the facilities to meet with clients on a regular basis.

(iv) Treatment Centres Established and Supported by the Province:



TABOR GROUP

Tabor Group (Tabor Lodge and Tabor Fellowship House), Aisíirí Cahir, Aislinn (Kilkenny).

Over the years, the Southern Province established Addiction Treatment Centres, including one for adolescents. They are



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

While the Charity has established separate legal entities for these centres, it continues to provide the buildings at a nominal rent.

Tabor Group 2024 in a Snapshot

- 916 phone calls made to Tabor Group
- Assessments:
 - 452 Offered
 - 342 Completed
- 250 Admissions (73% of Completed Assessments)
- 181 (73%) Clients admitted to Tabor Group's Primary Residential Programme
- 69 (27%) Clients admitted to Tabor Group's Integrated Recovery Programme

Sal y Luz del Mundo, Peru



The Sal y Luz del Mundo Therapeutic Community began in 1992 through contact by the sisters with a group of young people who were trying, on their own initiative, to give up drug use. A house was set up and therapists began to work there with the financial help of the province. The province currently contributes €33,000 a year towards salary costs.

The work begins on the streets where addicts live/gather in places called 'huecos' (holes). There they are befriended by workers from Sal y Luz, given breakfast and invited into the programme. There are three phases in the programme: Welcome, Community and Social Reintegration.

In 2024 students from one of the local schools (Jorge Basadre Grohmann) visited the centre to learn about addiction to drugs and alcohol and to hear the testimony of

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

some of the residents. They also visited another school where 500 pupils heard from the residents. They have planned to work with teachers in 2025 on drug and alcohol prevention.



(v) Mercy Ministry Fund

The Mercy Ministry Fund was set up by the Sisters of Mercy in response to need in the Southern Province. It supports groups which are of benefit to, and improve the lives of, the most vulnerable. It does this by focussing on specific areas of need:

- Educational Disadvantage
- Addiction
- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness
- Social and/or ecological injustice

Stewardship personnel in the provincial office review the applications and make recommendations to the Trustees.

The applications are assessed according to criteria set by the Trustees. The following is the breakdown of the contribution given and ratified by the Provincial Leadership Team/Trustees, between 1st January 2024 and 30th April 2025, according to categories:



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

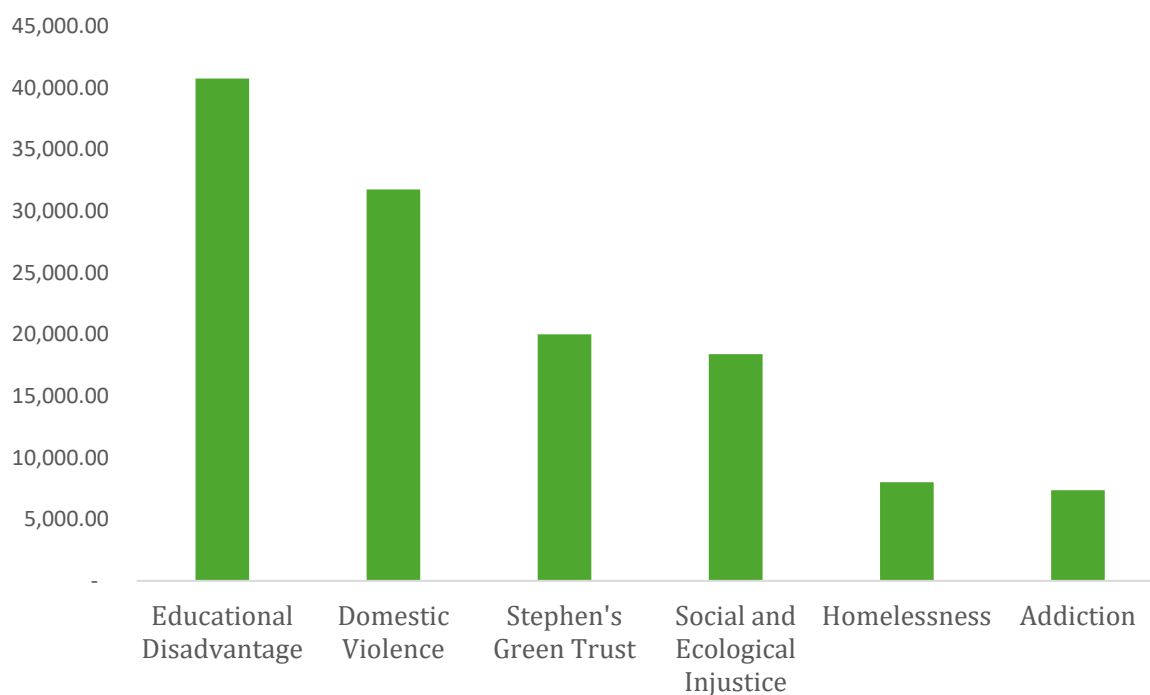
Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Funding January 2024 - April 2025 - Categories

Educational Disadvantage	€40,750.00
Domestic Violence	€31,760.00
Addiction	€7,356.00
Homelessness	€8,000.00
Social &/or Ecological Injustice	€18,395.00
Stephen's Green Trust	€20,000.00
Total:	€126,261.00

Mercy Ministry Fund



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



Various Family Resource Centres - FRCs



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Donations were also made to Good Shepherd Services Kilkenny and to People Helping People Wexford.

(vi) Wellsprings

Wellsprings/Huruma Ltd is both a residential and outreach centre in Cork City. Opened in 1995, it began by providing accommodation and counselling support for homeless young women who usually present with multiple and complex needs.



Bethany Outreach Service

In 2006 an outreach service was established offering lifelong support to women who engage with Wellsprings. Both buildings are provided by the Charity rent-free. Sisters also serve on the Board of Management.

(vii) Solidarity with and Support for Former Residents of Mercy Managed Institutions

The Sisters of Mercy have been engaged in the care of vulnerable young people since the beginning of the Congregation in 1827. This involvement continued through the years in more formal settings such as in orphanages, industrial schools and group homes. Many young people maintained contact and friendship with Sisters who had been their carers in childhood and members in turn provided informal after care services and supports.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



In light of revelations of the harshness of regimes in industrial schools in the past the Congregation established a Helpline and Counselling Service in 1996. This was taken over and expanded by CORI the following year and operated as “Faoiseamh” until 2011. Then it was replaced by *Towards Healing* a One Church service financed jointly by AMRI and the Irish Bishops Conference for former residents and their families.

In 2024 the Charity contributed €25,000 to enable a healing response through *Towards Healing*.

The services of the congregational and provincial archivists and their staff as well as the services of provincial administration staff are constantly available to past residents of our institutions who seek their records.

The Congregation contributed a total of €33,091,114 in property and finance to the 2002 Redress Scheme. It has taken a long time to complete the legal work of transferring some properties, but all has now been completed.

Following the issue of the Report by the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (The Ryan Report) in 2009 the Congregation pledged a voluntary contribution of €20m in cash as well as property then valued at €11.5m to the Statutory Fund set up to help those who had complained of abuse in industrial schools. In addition, they offered to the State properties which were valued at €80,856,800 and to the voluntary sector properties valued at €15,060,000.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province made an offer to the Government of €27,050,000 in 2009. The offer comprised of a payment of €4,000,000 and a transfer of 16 properties professionally valued at €23,050,000 at the time of the offer. At the balance sheet date, €4,000,000 plus accrued interest had been paid. Seven properties had been transferred, and a further nine sold and the proceeds transferred.

Towards Peace provides spiritual support in a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time.

Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools Run by Religious Orders

The Trustees worked with the Congregation Leadership Team and other relevant bodies to provide the information requested by the Scoping Inquiry. The Scoping Inquiry subsequently published its report in late 2024.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

(viii) Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Safeguarding Children

The new child safeguarding policy 'A Safe and Welcoming Church, Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024' became operational on 11th June 2024 and the Southern



Province's commitment to this new policy was signed by Sr Eileen O'Flynn (Provincial)

Safeguarding Office

The safeguarding office is overseen by the safeguarding manager who is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and administrative support is available. The role of the safeguarding manager is to develop and oversee the implementation of safeguarding practices for the Southern Province and liaise with statutory authorities.

Safeguarding Committee

The safeguarding committee met twice in 2024. The purpose of their meetings is to review and support the work of the safeguarding office and to monitor the implementation of the Safeguarding Strategic Plan 2023-25. The committee is accountable to the Provincial Leader through their Annual Report.

Safeguarding Audits

The completion of the Annual Safeguarding Audit assists with the evaluation of Safeguarding practices within the Charity. The 2024 Audit was completed in November 2024 showing 100% return from the province.

It confirmed that there are now no members involved in ministry with children. Sisters are now increasingly involved in the care of other aging members who themselves are deemed vulnerable adults requiring support and assistance.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

271 Sisters in September 2024 (Time of Audit)

61 Sisters with ministry with either children or vulnerable adults

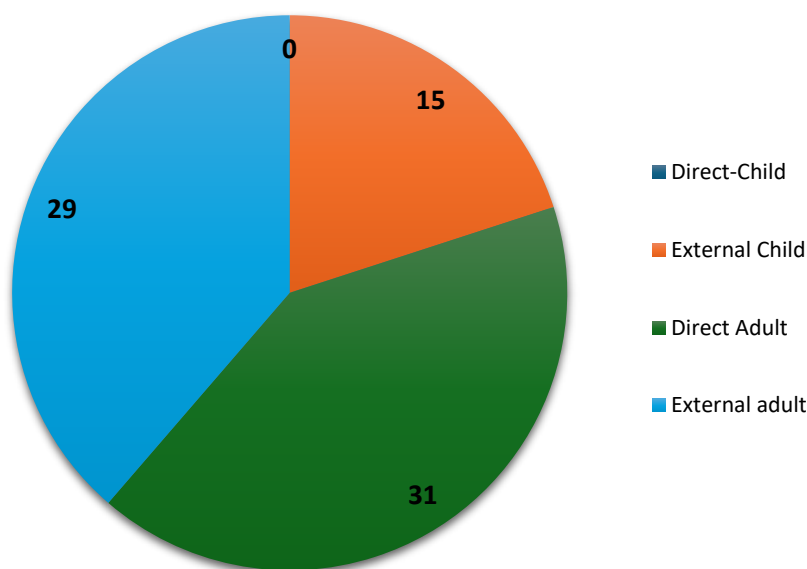
0 Sisters with Direct Ministry with children

15 Sisters with External Ministry with children

31 Sisters with Direct Ministry with vulnerable adults

29 Sisters with External Ministry with vulnerable adults

Breakdown of Ministries



Safeguarding Training

The Safeguarding Manager attended the following training sessions in 2024:

- 29/30th February - Safeguarding conference in UK
- 23rd April - Attended information session by the National Board on the revised Safeguarding Policy
- 25th April - Information session with new Director and team from Towards Healing
- 19th - September-update training session with national Board trainer.
- 13-15th November - Safeguarding Conference in Rome. Pontifical Commission for Safeguarding Minors.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Safeguarding Adults

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy has revised the Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Policy. The policy applies to all sisters in the four Irish provinces of the Congregation, resident in the republic and to employees and volunteers in our places of residence and ministry. However, it remains in draft form while we await the completion of our governance restructuring.

The Charity has contracted management companies for the large residences across the province. Staff are employed by each company to look after the catering, care and accommodation needs of the sisters. All staff are vetted and comply with the safeguarding policy of the relevant company which is in line with that of the Sisters of Mercy.

In 2024 ministry with adults was included in the Audit. 31 sisters undertake direct Mercy ministry with adults. Most of the ministry relates to care of our own members. 29 sisters are involved in external ministry with adults.

In Peru, three sisters form the safeguarding committee. They ensure that all sisters are aware of procedures and protocols. Dr Dayana Pino has overall responsibility for safeguarding training.

Safeguarding Communication

The Trustees recognise the importance of ensuring that sisters and staff are kept informed of best practice and developments in relation to safeguarding. Safeguarding information and updates were provided through our Province Newsletter - "Province Life", through a dedicated Safeguarding Newsletter and at meetings with cluster leaders during 2024.

C. Heritage and Upkeep of Listed Buildings

Mercy Archives

The purpose of the archives service in the province is to ensure that a record of the life of the sisters in the province, their mission and ministries is preserved. The Mercy Story links into the Irish social history of the last 200 years particularly in the areas of education, nursing, religious education, prison chaplaincy and social work with a particular focus on the disadvantaged in society. One member of the Charity works in the provincial archives office. Throughout the province several members

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

help through the writing of annals, personal memoirs and the collection of archival material. Other members work on specific projects for example researching and writing up the history of foundations, events or ministries.

Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co. Cork



The Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville is housed in the former choir and public chapel of the Convent of Mercy, which were transformed into the Provincial Heritage Centre in 2005. The location was chosen because it is the oldest convent in the province having been founded by Catherine McAuley herself in 1836. One sister currently works in the centre.

“2024 was another very busy and varied year in the Heritage Centre. As well as the permanent artefacts on display, the annual “pop-up exhibitions” e.g. St. Brigid, St. Patrick, Down Memory Lane, School in our Grandparent’s Day, The Missions, Lace, Sacramental Celebrations and A Christian Christmas proved very popular and drew large crowd.

I was invited to visit primary schools with slide shows and bring pupils, parents and teachers to Croke House where they learned the story of Archbishop Croke and his siblings, two of whom were sisters in the convent. A plaque, noting the Burial Place of Fr. Thomas Croke in the Heritage Centre was unveiled on the wall at the entrance and is one of the stopping places on local history tours of the town.



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Several classes of secondary school pupils came during Catholic Schools Week for prayer, discussion and group work. The St. Brigid exhibition led to an invitation to make Crosses in local nursing homes, something many of the residents enjoyed and appreciated.



Interest in our Lace Collection has spread far and wide in recent years. Many lacemakers came to engage in workshops, repair and launder some lace vestments and cloths and learn new skills from our hoard of unique patterns. I was also invited to speak to lacemakers in Limerick and Kinsale and encouraged them to visit the centre.

The role of the Sisters of Mercy in medical care from the days of the Workhouses to the Crimean War as well as in recent decades attracts many nurses, health care workers and medical students from Ireland and abroad. The most recent group from St. Louis, U.S.A. celebrated St. Patrick's Day with splashes of green!



Students and staff from Salve Regina, Detroit pay a visit every year. Mercy Healthcare is their area of interest.



In recent times Paraguayans have been flocking to Charleville to learn about their national heroine, Eliza Lynch, who lived beside our early sisters in Clanchy Terrace. They are eager to hear about life in the nineteenth century in the town.

Another new project in 2024 was the recording of two series of programmes in the Heritage Centre, (www.corkmusicstation.com) where history, music and entertainment mingled and were broadcast on the world wide web.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

These Programmes proved very popular and the positive feedback from worldwide listeners was most encouraging.



Researchers continue to visit, and students are welcomed to do project work.

After tours, visitors are offered a “comfortable cup of tea” which is enjoyed by all, especially those who come a distance”. Bernadette Maria Knopek RSM (Curator)

Listed Buildings

The province owns six buildings listed on the planning authority’s Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Protected structures are considered to be of specific interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical importance to society. Three convents located in Co Cork, and one in each of counties Kerry, Kilkenny and Waterford are listed buildings which the charity is obliged to maintain. The Charity is legally required to ensure that these structures do not become endangered through neglect, decay, damage or harm. Certain repair works that are normally routine on a building, may require planning permission on a protected structure. Additional expenditure is incurred in sourcing expertise and materials for the renovation of listed buildings. During the period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025 the Sisters of Mercy Southern Province incurred a cost of €580,030.35 in respect of these protected structures and heritage assets. This cost included areas such as insurance, maintenance, professional fees, general upkeep and depreciation.

Cemeteries are also a focus of care. The Charity aims to keep all cemeteries under its jurisdiction in good condition.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



Convent of Mercy, Waterford

D. Positive Impact Investing

Our Mission Driven Investment Approach

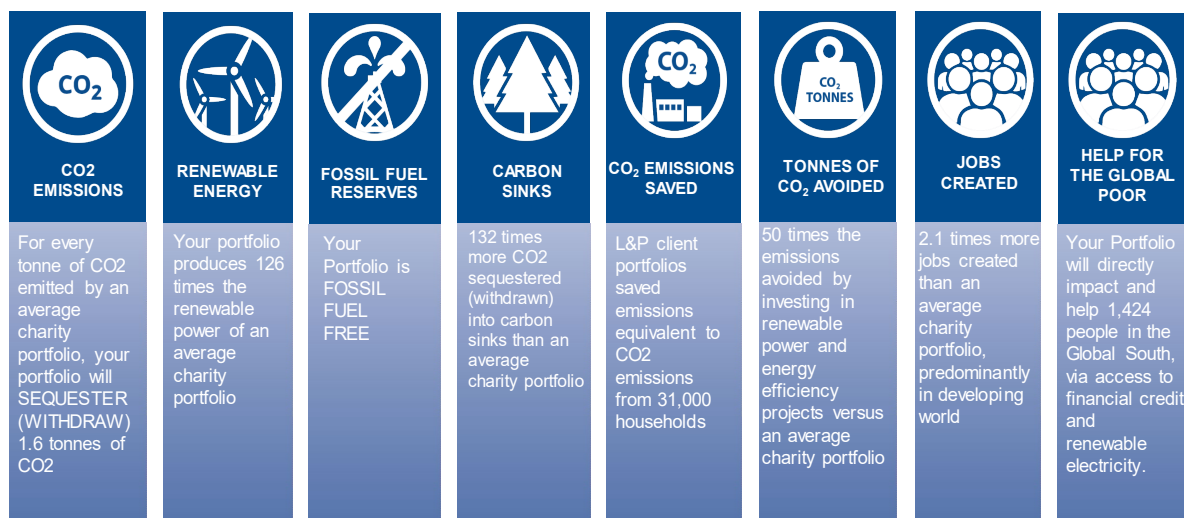
As investors, it can be easy to get caught up in simple financial return. However, investing is an extremely useful tool for not only generating financial returns but also creating an impact on the world around us. We see our investment portfolio as an extension of our Mission. Alongside our active ministries, we strive to create meaningful change through positive impact investing. At the same time, we actively avoid investments in industries that are contrary to our values, such as fossil fuels and armaments. By doing so, we ensure that our financial resources are not supporting harmful activities.

However, avoiding harm is only part of the equation. We believe that driving positive change through our investments is even more powerful. That's why we focus on opportunities that promote individual well-being and environmental sustainability. We assess our impact across key areas that reflect how our investments contribute to a better world. Below are some of the positive outcomes achieved through our investment portfolio:

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025



The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Every investment within our portfolio is analysed to assess its contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals, adopted by all UN member states, serve as a global blueprint for creating a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future.

The SDGs aim to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges by focusing on ending poverty, protecting the environment, and improving overall well-being. They encourage governments, businesses, and investors to take meaningful action toward achieving these objectives by 2030. By aligning our investments with the SDGs, we ensure that our financial decisions are not only responsible but also actively driving positive change. Through this approach, we contribute to solutions that foster economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) closely align with the charitable missions and ethical principles upheld by religious organizations. Rooted in values of human dignity, social justice, and environmental stewardship, the SDGs provide a framework for addressing some of the world’s most urgent challenges—many of which religious communities have long worked to combat.

Since the publication of *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis has strongly emphasized the need for sustainable development and care for our common home. His call for “...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet” underscores the moral responsibility to act urgently on issues such as climate change, inequality, and global poverty. Pope Francis has also voiced direct support for the SDGs, notably in his speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s formal adoption of the 17 Goals. His endorsement reinforced the ambitious and transformational vision of the SDGs, aligning them with the principles of integral human development—the idea that progress must support both people and the planet.

By integrating the SDGs into investment strategies, faith-based organizations can actively contribute to a more just, sustainable, and compassionate world, ensuring that financial resources are directed toward initiatives that reflect their core values. To ensure alignment of the SDGs we use a comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact screen which guarantees the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the material production of

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Additional Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening to improve the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio.

Environmental Impact

Overall Carbon Footprint



Measurement of carbon emissions plays a critical role in shaping our understanding of how our investment portfolio affects the climate crisis, and also enables us to better address it. Additionally, limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who've done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also contributes to reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

The portfolio includes several carbon sink investments designed to capture and remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Among these, forestry stands out as a particularly effective solution, as trees naturally absorb CO₂ during their growth process. As a result, the inclusion of forestry funds helps to offset the majority of the portfolio's carbon emissions, effectively balancing its environmental impact.

Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) 806 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide or equivalent gases) from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 4,972 tonnes of CO₂e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

Fossil Fuel Reserves

In early 2017, the Trustees made the decision to fully divest from fossil fuels, ensuring that the portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. This policy guarantees that there is no direct exposure to companies involved in thermal coal, oil, natural gas, or other unconventional reserves, such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas.

A significant portion of these fossil fuel reserves is expected to become "stranded assets", meaning they may never be utilized if global efforts to limit temperature rise to below 2°C are successful. By avoiding these assets, the portfolio not only reinforces its

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

commitment to environmental sustainability but also mitigates financial risks associated with stranded fossil fuel investments.

The chart below illustrates the fossil fuel reserves held within the portfolio compared to an unscreened portfolio. As shown, the portfolio holds zero fossil fuel reserves, reinforcing its dedication to supporting the global transition to sustainable energy. This approach ensures that investments align with the portfolio's overarching impact-driven strategy, actively contributing to the shift away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable energy solutions.

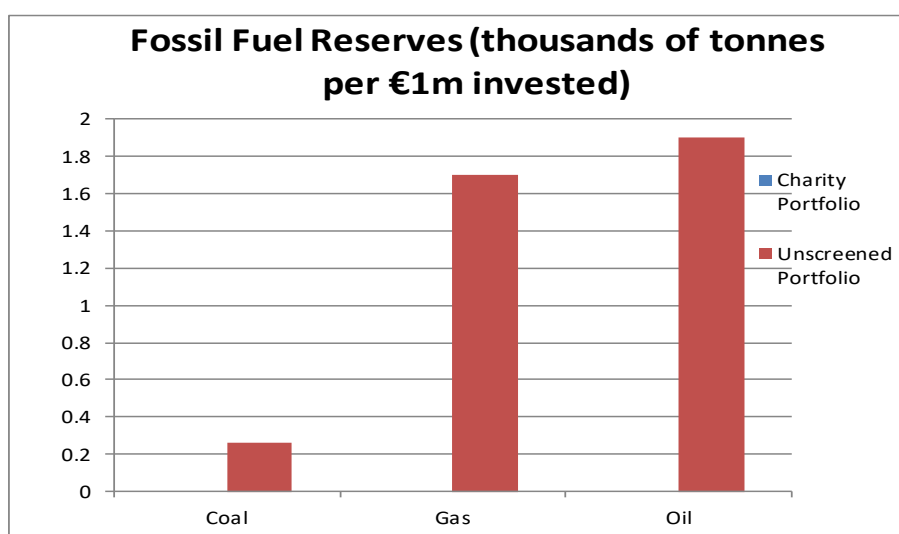


Chart showing the Charity's Investment Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)

Renewable Energy

As the transition to renewable energy is crucial in addressing climate change, impact-focused investors typically aim for a high level of renewable power generation within their portfolios.

In our portfolio, renewable energy production is supported through various investments across Ireland, Europe, the U.S., and developing regions. These investments play a vital role in advancing clean energy solutions while contributing to global sustainability goals.

Below, we highlight some of the key impact metrics of these renewable energy funds:

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Renewable Energy Fund

Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects

- Energy for 300,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum
- 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



Solar Income Fund

Fund holding approx. 40 solar plants in Europe

- Energy for 150,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum
- 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO₂ emissions) it replaces. In 2024, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 2,633 tonnes of CO₂e. This is equivalent to:

- Removing 569 cars from the roads every year
- 6,057 barrels of oil saved
- 2,194 acres of pine forest absorbing CO₂ for one year
- 290 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 5,399 MWh in 2024, enough energy to power approx. 1,459 homes.

Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere;

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



The managers of the forestry investments in the portfolio review any new forest properties at the outset to record and maintain Biodiversity already present. They have also adopted an approach in their management to enhance biodiversity by planning linkage between features using corridors so that the biodiversity

features on site are conserved and new features being created are all joined and form part of a biodiversity unit within each property. These features are measured and captured on the managers' geographic information system (GIS). A detailed biodiversity classification and ranking system is in place and enhancement targets are being set to enrich diversification in fauna and flora throughout the portfolio.

Social Impact

Job Creation



Providing employment is one of the best methods of reducing poverty, and therefore it has a number of positive beneficial effects across the SDGs, from poverty reduction (SDG1) to providing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8). As the majority of the jobs created by the impact investments are in the developing world, and tend to favour women as much (if not more) than men, then job creation in these areas improves Gender Equality (SDG5) and Reduces Inequalities (SDG10), both between sexes and between the developed and developing regions of the world.

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore additional capital from investors should enable these companies to create jobs, albeit that the job creation impact from additional investment in these typically large, established businesses is low. However, other funds that operate in the developing world tend to produce far higher job creation and comprise the majority of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 18 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create circa 27 direct jobs in 2024.

Homelessness Crisis

As of 2024, there were an estimated 14,000 homeless individuals in Ireland, indicating a dramatic rise of over 250% in the number of homeless families since 2015. This stark increase highlights the deepening crisis in Ireland's social housing sector, which has been struggling to meet demand due to severe limitations in the availability of residential properties and a rapidly growing population. At the time of this report, Ireland's population had surpassed 5 million people, reaching its highest level since 1851. This population growth, coupled with increasing urbanization and economic pressures, has put enormous strain on the housing market.

In response to this urgent need for affordable housing, the portfolio has included the New Haven Social Housing Fund, which is specifically designed to address the chronic shortage of housing for vulnerable populations in Ireland. The Fund's primary aim is to invest in and develop sustainable, high-quality housing for those most in need, including low-income families, individuals facing homelessness, and other at-risk groups.

The following outlines the key goals of the **New Haven Social Housing Fund**, which works to mitigate the social and economic challenges posed by this growing crisis:

Social Housing Fund

Innovative fund acquires properties for social housing purposes

- Provide €100m+ in long term capital to housing sector
- Target high ESG and sustainability standards
- 500+ new homes to be provided for social housing needs



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's accounts can be found on page X of this report.

Income - where our income came from

Income for the period totalled €12,977,277:

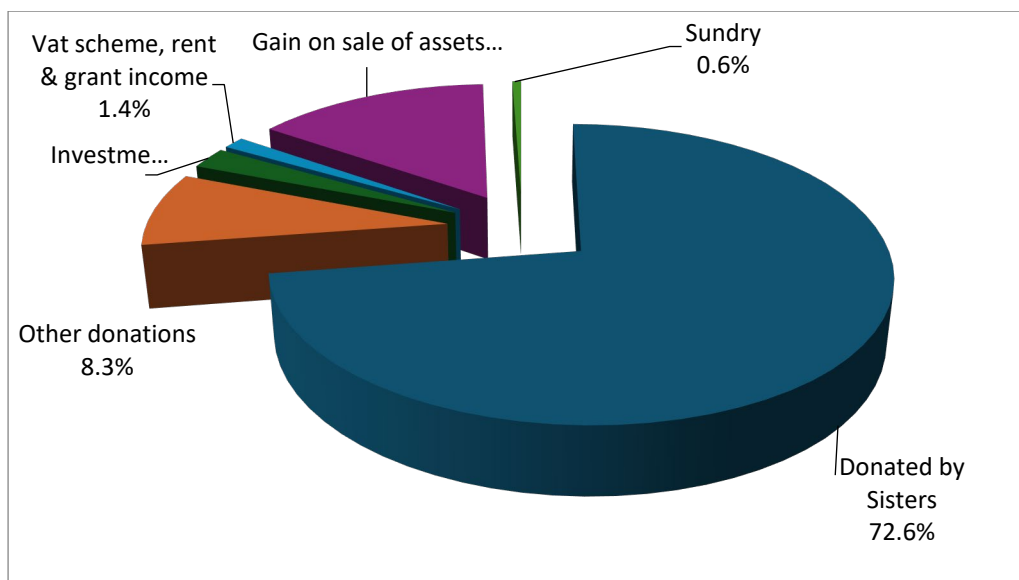
- Donations & Legacies income of €10,501,047: the vast majority of this, €9,422,845, was the pension, salary, stipend and retirement lump sum income earned by the members of the Sisters of Mercy Southern Province and donated to the Charity. The balance, €1,078,202, was a mixture of income received under the Charitable Donations Scheme, third party legacies, bequests, gifts, and insurance refunds and claims received.
- Investment Income of €313,536: was the income earned on the Charity's investment portfolio and bank interest.
- Charitable activities of €177,341: was the refund received under the Charity Vat Compensation Scheme, rental income and grant income received.
- Other income of €1,985,353: the majority of this, €1,913,396 was the gain on the disposal of tangible fixed assets, mainly property along with sundry income of €71,957

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Breakdown of Income



Expenditure - where the money is spent

Total expenditure for the year was €15,626,383.

Charitable Activities - of the total, €15,498,821 or 99%, was spent on Charitable Activities:

- Congregational living, the advancement of Religion, €5,346,773: this includes the upkeep and up-skilling and retraining of the members of the province. The members who receive salary, pension, stipend and retirement lump sum income donate them to the Charity and therefore have no independent means of support. They have devoted all of their adult years and their earnings to realize the objectives of the Charity. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Charity includes the provision of living accommodation, the upkeep, up-skilling and retraining of the members of the province so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public
- Healthcare and the compassionate care of the sick and those in need, €7,499,656: Catherine McAuley generated in her sisters a deep concern and compassion for the sick and dying and today, over 180 years later, wellbeing activities, healthcare, care of the dying and the bereaved still engage many of the members in the province. The members of the province are involved in this work in hospitals, hospices, nursing

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

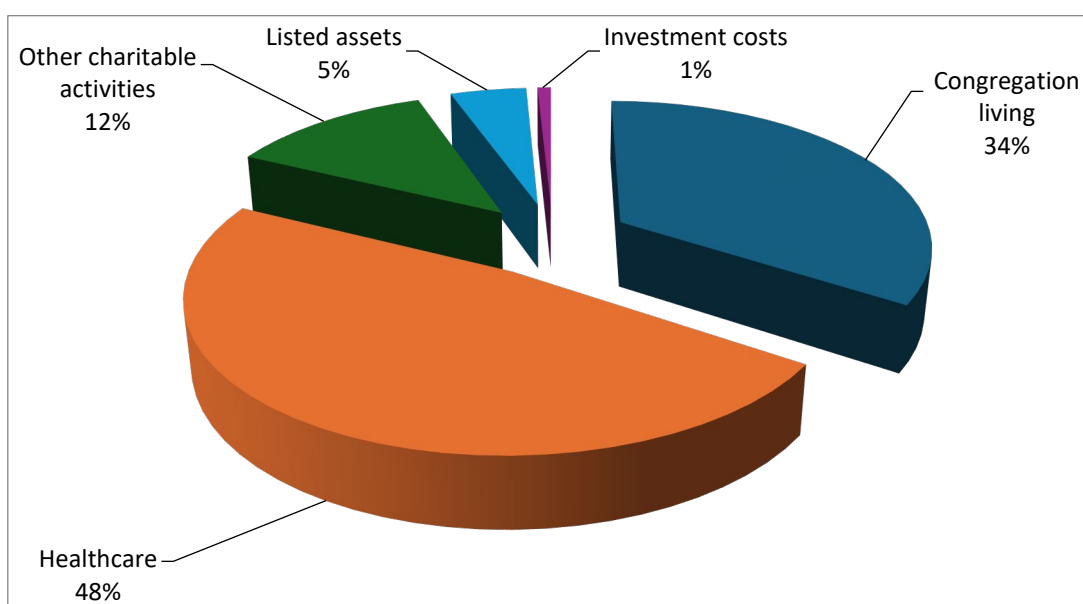
For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

homes, community care and within the Community houses. In addition, the Charity must care for the elderly members of the province who are now themselves in need of care.

- Relief of poverty, promotion of education, justice and other charitable activities, €1,927,477: this includes expenditure on a number of headings, including Promotion of all aspects of Education, Justice, Peace & Reconciliation, Overseas development and support, Pastoral and social care and development, Support of other charities/groups and Involvement in critical global and local issues
- Upkeep of listed assets, € 24,915: the Charity owns a number of protected structures. The structures are typically buildings that are listed on planning authority's Record of Protected Structures (RPS). By including them in the RPS, the importance of these structures is recognised; they are legally protected from harm and all future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process. The Charity is legally required to make sure that these structures do not become endangered through neglect, decay, damage or harm.

Investment costs – in the year, investment costs totalled €127,562.

Breakdown of Expenditure



Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Net movement in funds

Net expenditure for the year, therefore, was €2,649,106. This was before the loss on investment assets, which when taken into account results in a net decrease in funds in the year of €2,977,224.

Restructuring

As noted in the 2023 Report, this Charity is one of five 'Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy' civil charities in the Republic of Ireland and the Trustees have been working with the wider Congregation on a restructuring process. A decision has been taken to restructure the five civil charities in the Republic of Ireland into one charity. This followed an extensive period of reflection and discussion in relation to:

- The role and obligations of Charity Trustees
- The most effective and efficient use of the time and resources of the Republic of Ireland Provinces and the Congregation
- The best way of preserving the mission and ethos of the Provinces and Congregation into the future

The formal date of the restructuring was 30th April 2025:

- On this date, this Charity, and the three other Republic of Ireland Provincial charities, merged with the central charity, The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, RCN 20023843.
- On this date, all this Charity's assets, liabilities, activities and undertakings were merged with the central charity.
- Therefore, this is the final set of financial statements for this Charity.
- The Trustees will continue to work with both the Charities Regulator and the Revenue Commissioners on the formal wind-up of the Charity.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Review of Charity Objectives for 2024

Objectives Set	Progress Review
Will continue to carry out all their obligations, as Trustees of the Charity with the call of Chapter 24 forming the context for all plans and decisions.	Chapter 2024 decided to consolidate the canonical structure of the Sisters of Mercy by integrating the provinces into the wider structure governed centrally by the Congregation. 30 th April 2025 was set as the date from which the Civil law would mirror the Canon law structure. In effect, the province was suppressed on 30 th April 2025 and the role of trustees ceased to exist.
Engage in the process of identifying and managing the legal aspects of the transaction which will see all of the assets, liabilities and activities of the province transfer to one single, central congregational entity.	From April 2024-April 2025 trustees did all that was required by Congregational Leadership and by legal and financial advisors to bring about a smooth and successful transition
Continue their commitment to the ongoing care of all sisters in the province whether they live independently, in communities or require full time care	Trustees were in regular contact and consultation with cluster leaders, membership and management companies to progress this objective.
Devise a process to consult membership prior to the appointment of Cluster leaders.	Following consultation with membership new cluster leaders were appointed in each of the 7 clusters in November 2024
Work collaboratively with other groups and agencies in responding to global and local needs.	See Section C of this Report: Alleviation of Poverty etc. in Collaboration with and Support of other groups.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Maintain the safeguarding structures at national and provincial level.	Both the Safeguarding Committee and Inhouse Team met regularly during 2024. Safeguarding Representatives were appointed in each cluster.
Work with and promote processes emanating from MIA, CLT, and any group yet to be formed for the furtherance of the Mercy Mission at provincial level.	Throughout 2024 members were actively involved in various processes emanating from CLT and MIA
Continue to update the content and layout of the website	This continued.
Progress the transfer of trusteeship of the primary schools to the dioceses of Cork and Ross, Cloyne, Waterford and Lismore, Ferns and Ossory.	Schools in Ferns and Ossory were transferred as well as some in Cloyne, Kerry and Waterford and Lismore.
Progress the transfer of the secondary schools in Dungarvan and Waterford to Educena.	Completed
Facilitate and support the sisters in undertaking the activities of the charity.	See section on Activities of the Charity in this Report
Engage with members about the Advanced Healthcare Directive. Present information and offer ongoing clarification to ensure members understand it is voluntary.	Completed March 2024
Support Circles of Mercy and Encountering Mercy members and all who share with us in living the charism of mercy.	Trustees attended meetings and financial support was given for visit to Baggot Street. Group members also attended and gave input at the Provincial Assembly.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

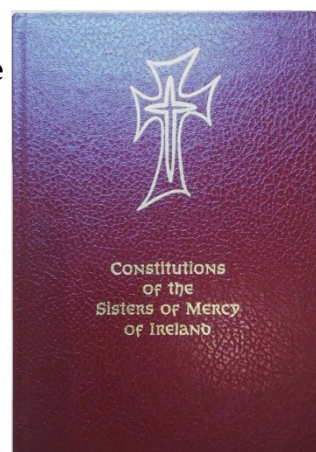
Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Nature of Governing Document

The governing instrument of the Southern Province is the *Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy* which was adopted by the General Chapter of the Congregation in August 1994 and approved by the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life* (Rome) in April 1995. The province is one of four provinces in Ireland and is an unincorporated association.



The governmental structure of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy involves a number of inter-connected units: local, provincial and congregational. The nature of the authority in each unit is described in the Constitutions. The province is a unit of the Congregation having the personnel and other resources to support its life, mission and membership.

Method Adopted for Appointing Trustees (Provincial Leadership Team)

The Charity is governed by the Provincial Leader and the Provincial Leadership Team who are elected every six years by members of the province. The Provincial Leadership Team are the Trustees of the Charity. Members of the Provincial Leadership Team are chosen for their expertise and skills as well as their experience and knowledge of the Congregation, its nature and mission.

The trustees are members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and as such their living and personal costs are borne by the charity. They receive no remuneration for their services as trustees.

Organisational Structure & Decision Making

The Provincial Leader and members of the Provincial Leadership Team are the Trustees of the Charity. Regarding decision-making, the Trustees take responsibility for the overall running of the Charity. The Trustees meet on a regular basis to review developments regarding the Charity and its activities. Every six years members are involved in a prolonged meeting – called a Chapter - a period of reflection/prayer, evaluation and planning with a focus on the development of policies and effective use of resources in an assessment of current and future needs.

Trustees attend formal training courses on the duties of Trustees and seek guidance and advice as necessary from their legal, investment and property advisors on the

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

issues which arise in carrying out their duties. In addition, the Trustees have established a number of advisory groups. The function of these groups, whose membership includes various professional advisors, is to advise the Trustees on different aspects of stewardship and the general management of the assets of the Charity.

There are systems of accountability operational throughout the province. At the six yearly Chapter meeting General and Financial Reports are given to the members. The Provincial Treasurer is appointed by the Provincial Leader with the consent of her team. The Provincial Treasurer administers the affairs of the province under the direction of the Provincial Leader and her Team. The majority of the income of the Charity comes from sisters' salaries, stipends and pensions, sale of property and income from investments. The salary, stipend and pension income is voluntarily donated to a common fund, administered through the Provincial Stewardship Office. Sale of properties and income from investment provide additional income.

Risk Management

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment exercise on an annual basis and monitor progress on a half-yearly basis. This process is supported by our financial advisors, who work closely with the Trustees in these areas. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

- Governance and Management.
- Operational.
- Financial.
- Laws, regulation, external and environment.

Governance & Management risks are named as possibility of lack of decisive direction, at whether the skills and training of the members and staff are adequate, and whether the good use of its resources is optimum.

Operational risk looks at the risks inherent in the charity's activities including the operation of its Assisted Living Houses – and the risk of any members being engaged in inappropriate activities, possible unsuitability of buildings, poor maintenance, shortcomings in the services provided, difficulties with staff and poor health and safety guidelines.

Financial risk includes those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting and inappropriate investment policies.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Laws, regulations, external & environment look at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with the laws and regulations, and poor risk assessment.

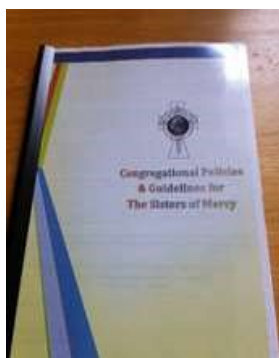
Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed the Trustees believe that they have established effective systems to mitigate the risks:

- obtaining appropriate professional advice,
- monitoring, and where appropriate insuring the operational and business risks faced by the charity, and
- developing policies, procedures, systems and controls.

The Trustees are assisted in the above by financial advisors, various committees which consider the management of appropriate risks, including the Property Advisory and Financial Advisory Groups.

There have been no other significant events affecting the charity since the financial year end.

Policies



The Trustees, in collaboration with Congregational Leadership Team ensure that policies and good practice guidelines are developed, circulated and implemented and that these are regularly evaluated and updated. The Trustees have taken steps to ensure that the Charity is fully compliant with all legislative requirements.

Since the mid 1990's the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy has had a safeguarding policy which has been revised regularly. The policy aims to encourage adequate awareness and best practice among all members of the Congregation, and those working for them, to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded from abuse of any kind. The Charity is committed to a culture of safeguarding and to ensuring compliance with best practice in this area. The Trustees are proactive in complying with civil and ecclesiastical requirements for safeguarding in the Republic of Ireland. The Trustees review annually the implementation of its Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

The Charity has further policies and guidelines on Stewardship, Health and Safety, Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (still in draft form), Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Property

“For the sake of our mercy mission, the congregation and each province has the right to acquire and possess, to administer and alienate property temporal goods and revenues according to the norms of universal law and these constitutions, with due respect for civil law” (Cons. 119, 1995)

“We value the resources of the earth as gifts of God and use them in a spirit of stewardship ... In the spirit of religious poverty we seek to have a simple life-style and to balance concern for our future with support and compassion for poor and needy people.” (Cons. 118 1995)

We are committed to a lifestyle reflecting the fact that all our possessions are held in trust for the mission of the Congregation. As property trustees we aim to promote the mission, addressing our own needs and those of the wider community.

The relevant professional advice is taken into account in the areas of leases and agreements, protected structures, planning, health and safety legislation, acquisition, refurbishment and disposal of property and all legally binding issues and transactions.

The province has a Property Advisory Group to give advice and make recommendations on issues relating to property when requested by the Provincial Leadership Team. It also ensures that the Property Register is kept up to date.

Membership of the committee includes:

- Members of the Provincial Leadership Team
- Property Coordinator
- Provincial Treasurer
- Provincial Financial Controller
- Property, legal, financial and technical advisors.

They advise and make recommendations to the Provincial Leader and Team, who decide on the course of action to be taken.

Properties are currently held in the Sisters of Mercy (Southern Province) Property Holding CLG

COMPANIES

The following charitable companies were established and founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province:

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Mercy Care South

Huruma CLG T/A Wellsprings

Tabor Lodge Addiction and Housing Services CLG Welcome

Immigrant Centre CLG T/A Welcome English.

The Trustees support the work of the respective Boards and engage and meet with them on a regular basis through their Trustee representative and at the annual general meetings of the respective companies. The importance of good corporate governance has been to the forefront in the companies since they were established which is fully supported by the Trustees.

The Trustees also support the charitable companies through the provision of outsourced company secretarial services, which provides additional support to the respective Chairperson and the Boards and ensures that each company fulfils its statutory duty and fully complies with the law. In line with best practise, each Board and the Company Secretary work together to ensure that the Board conducts its duties with the highest standards of governance.

The Sisters of Mercy Southern Province own the properties from which the majority of these companies operate. In many cases, these properties are leased to the companies rent free which allows the companies to channel their resources into the provision of the services in line with their charitable activities and initiate new projects, which ultimately benefits the patients, clients and service users.

Appreciation

The Trustees wish to record their recognition of the professionalism and commitment of all their staff, volunteers and the individual members of the province and Congregation. Their dedication and positive approach are very much appreciated.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sr. Bríd Biggane
Trustee

Sr. Nora Anne Lombard
Trustee

Dated: 13 October 2025

Dated: 13 October 2025

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The law applicable to charities in Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law . They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sr. Bríd Biggane
Trustee

Sr. Nora Anne Lombard
Trustee

Dated: 13 October 2025

Dated: 13 October 2025

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province (the 'charity') for the period ended 30 April 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 30 April 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province

Annual Trustee Report

For the Period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the IAASA's website at: [www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description of auditors' responsibilities for audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Walsh O'Brien Harnett

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13 October 2025